MONTEREY NEWS

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The Annual Town Meeting

by Maggie Leonard

Eighty-four Monterey voters convened at the Monterey Firehouse for the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 3. The annual meeting was preceded by two Special Town Meetings, one at 9 a.m. and the second at 9:15, that were needed for issues that surfaced after the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting was closed and certified on March 24, 2014.

The mornings' first Special Town Meeting was on behalf of the Planning Board (full disclosure: this reporter is co-chair of the board) to change a typographical error in the Zoning Bylaws, Section 4.2.1. The frontage requirement for the Business District should be 100

(*cont. on p. 2*)

The Town

by Stephen Moore

New Select Board

At the May 5th Select Board meeting, the Board thanked Muriel Lazzarini for her service on the Board and wished her well. The May 12th meeting marked the beginning of newly elected Kenn Basler's

(*cont. on p. 5*)

Steven Weisz

On May 21 Massachusetts Secretary of Education Matt Malone visted the Monterey School and listened in as teacher Lynn Webster addressed the schoolchildren and guests. See story p. 6.

(*Annual Town Meeting, cont. from p. 1*)
feet and the Zoning Bylaws stated 200 feet. The mistake, only recently noticed, was made when the Zoning Bylaws were revised and approved in 2012. The correction back to 100 feet was quickly and unanimously approved.

The second special town meeting consisted of five warrant articles, most concerning finances. The first article was to transfer money from Free Cash to the Sand and Snow Account. Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini made a motion to amend the $58,172 on the warrant to $73,802, which was unanimously approved, and article 1 passed as amended. Article 2 was to appropriate $5,000 from the Receipts Reserve Septic Loan Fund for the Community Septic Program, also unanimously approved. The Community Septic Program was a loan program created several years ago when the new Title Five septic regulations were considered unduly burdensome to long-time homeowners. Article 3 rescinded the transfer of $2,800 from Free Cash to the Mass Elderly Fund that was approved at a Special Town Meeting in December 2013, necessary because the Free Cash was not certified at that time. Article 4 officially approved that transfer. Article 5 proposed a real estate tax exemption for retired members of the volunteer Monterey Fire Department who have served a minimum of 15 years, with no exemption exceeding $1,350; it was unanimously approved.

It's barely 9:30 a.m. and already voters have dug into town business with interest and gusto. Now Moderator Mark Makuc gavels in the Annual Town Meeting to review and vote on the 22-article warrant that will set the financial course for the town over the next year. The usual suspects are here: Select Board members Wayne Burkhart, Scott Jenssen, and chair Muriel Lazzarini are arrayed in the front row accompanied by Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard, and behind them are familiar faces of board members and citizens, all of whom care enough to devote a Saturday morning to participatory democracy.

The first couple of articles sets the stage for the meeting to allow voters to hear and act on the reports of all town officers, agents, and committees and to approve the annual stipends of the Select Board, ($4,300) the Assessors, ($4,000) and the Board of Health ($400); all are unanimously approved.

Next article 3, the biggie, the budget. This consists of approximately 112 line items. Moderator Mark Makuc instructed voters that he would read through all the items and that voters should call out a "hold" for questions on any particular item, which would be returned to for discussion. A hold was called immediately on the first line item, the moderator's annual salary of $100, and seven more holds were called in the progress of the reading. After the reading of the line items the moderator recognized John Weingold, who moved to amend the moderator's annual salary to $300, adding that the moderator has had the same salary for over 30 years. The amendment was enthusiastically approved and the line item was changed. The next two holds were to amend amounts that needed to be increased, specifically, increasing the line for Temporary Employee from $1,000 to $3,000 (the Town Clerk and the Town Accountant have required extra help in the past year) and increasing the amount in the Town Reserve Fund from $15,000 to $22,000; the requested amendments were approved.

Other holds generated more discussion. Select Board member Wayne Burkhart reported that the Select Board and the Employee Compensation Committee worked hard on salaries over the past year and that they had "treated different classes of employees in different ways," possibly in response to the controversy in last year's town meeting regarding the benefits and salaries of town employees. This year the seven fulltime town employees received a two percent

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Claudia Martin

Memorial Day 2014: Monterey veterans at Veterans Memorial Park: (l-r) Mike Hanecak, Robert Fredsall, Julio Rodriguez, Lincoln Lipsky (still in service), Gene Bonnous, Robert Rausch, Michael Banner, Aaron Leavitt, Frank D'Amatto, George Emmons, Arthur Wing, Richard Tryon, Morton Sternberg, and Jim Dutcher.

cost of living increase (COLA), and most part-timers did not.

That generated a lot of discussion, and Mary Ellen Brown, a former town employee, advocated for a two percent COLA increase for all town employees. Brown made a motion to amend the requested amount of $36,754 for the Principal Assessor—the same amount as last year—to $37,489 and increase the line for the Assessors Clerk salary from $8,440 to $8,609, both of which would reflect a two percent COLA increase; the amendments were approved.

In that same vein, Select Board chair Muriel Lazzarini made an eloquent argument for increasing the salary for Police Chief Gareth Backhaus, citing his "twenty-one plus years of service to the town, his calm and orderly style of leadership, his training in mental health crisis work, his work in getting grants, and his attention to the concerns of second homeowners." She ended with, "Our chief is meticulous; he did not receive a salary increase last year. Plus, we don't get in the headlines here in Monterey." This last comment referred to recent articles in the *Berkshire Eagle* reflecting local police departments in various forms of turmoil. Voters agreed with Lazzarini, amending the Chief's salary from $65,5000 to $70,500.

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After a few more amendments to approve COLA salary increases, John Weingold asked, "Why are all these salaries being bumped up? Why isn't this stuff figured out?" Jon Sylbert was recognized and advocated for a COLA increase for the Building Inspector from $27,284 to $27,830. For the past few years Sylbert has been advocating for a more fiscally responsible process for considering salaries and benefits for town employees, including salary increases based on employee reviews (and beginning employee reviews) and a phased-in reduction of employee health benefits. To this last item Sylbert remarked, "There is one place on planet Earth where employees get a 90/10 split on their health insurance and that is in Monterey. We pay more than anyone else in the world."

Article 4 asked voters to appropriate $117,000 from the Stabilization Fund to purchase a 2015 Ford F-550 4500 truck for the Highway Department and to authorize the Select Board to sell the town's 2007 Chevy 4500. Mary Ellen Brown explained the importance of the Stabilization Fund for moderately large expenditures and stated, "We need to respect the Stabilization Fund for its proper use." Brown asked the Select Board, "How much is in the account?" to which Lazzarini replied "$703,000." >

Articles 5, 6, and 7 were to continue to pay down debts already approved in prior years: $68,500 for the salt storage shed; $42,915 for the grader; $56,266 for Fire Department rescue vehicle and hydraulic tools. All were approved. Article 8 was to raise and appropriate $15,500 to purchase defibrillators for the Fire and Police Departments and the town beach and the pavilion (behind the firehouse). John Sellew asked, "If there is a defibrillators at the town beach is there anyone there who knows how to use it?" Officer Mike Johnson replied, "They all come with instructions and also auto-dial 911." Voters unanimously approved the purchases.

The next several articles involved raising and moving money: voters approved boosting the town's Stabilization Fund by adding $50,000; transferring $8,000 from the Overlay Surplus to the Reserve Funds; making the last appropriation of $5,000 for the Community Septic Program; raising and appropriating $5,000 for Retiree Health and Life Insurance; and transferring $7,700 to the Retiree Group Health/Life Insurance Benefit.

In consideration of article 14, to raise $3,600 for the maintenance of the Bally Gally house on the former Wilson/McLaughlin property, Chris Blair asked about the revenue from the rental of the property—which turned out to be $12,000 per year—and asked why the maintenance was not covered by the rental. Burkhart explained that the rental income goes into Free Cash with all other revenues. Jon Sylbert explained that the town has revenue streams from various places including the state Cherry Sheet, taxes, and other sources, "Whatever we don't spend goes into Free Cash."

Article 21 was a citizen petition to amend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House (FWMH) by adding the word "private" to how the group may raise money: "to raise money by PRIVATE contributions and through civic events. . . ." Jon Sylbert was recognized and made his report: " Let me begin by being clear that this is not about being either for or against the community center. This concerns the lease and the agreement between the town and the Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House that was created in 2005. Back when the town made this agreement everyone supported the idea of a community center but did not want to use taxpayers' money for the project. The lease and the MOU were written to shield taxpayers from risk. I want to reinforce the original intent of the 2005 agreement, which was for private donations. If we put public money in this project there is no provision to get that money back—it's lost."

Joe Baker, chair of the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House, rose to reply: "Any money from the town goes into a public facility, and those dollars are not lost. It's a partially renovated facility, and the town owns the building!" Baker provided a comprehensive review of the improvements to the building and the property.

Many townspeople rose to defend the project and the methods of fundraising, both public and private. Wendy Germain supported the project: "We've used the money raised to hire engineers, architects, and professionals and get the job done." Sylbert replied that he did not disagree with that, but that he believed the lease was not written for a town-funded project: "Now with the influx of public dollars there needs to be new language in the lease." Steven Weisz said that adding the word "private" wouldn't achieve the stated goals and weighed in with another idea: "I think the town should sell Bally Gally and use those funds for the community center project." Chris Goldfinger made an impassioned listing of the accomplishments of the Friends of Wilson McGlaughlin House, "We inherited the house with toxic lead, which we ameliorated. We fixed the floor. We've put on a new roof. We've started a community garden. And we pay mandated professionals top dollar to do all the work!" Laurie Shaw, also on the FWMH committee, agreed, "There is always risk. Why would we want to impede fundraising in any way?" Sylbert countered, "The point of the lease was to hand the house back to the town finished. Now there is enormous risk to the town."

In the end voters did not agree and the article failed.

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(*The Town, cont. from p. 1*)
term. Wayne Burkhart will be the new Select Board chair. The Board reviewed the protocol and manners that make for effective cooperation. Kenn raised the issue of Select Board meeting times. He noted that it came up as he talked to people when he was running. The Board agreed to have their second Monday meeting each month from 4 to 6 p.m.

Town Finances

Kenn Basler feels that a priority should be getting financial systems to function better and to make sure that people working on town finances have the support necessary. Wayne agreed that having correct information has been difficult recently but that the Board has been focused on this issue. Scott Jenssen, the third Select Board member, and Wayne feel that the treasurer and accountant understand how important this is and that if the work is not done properly, the Board may have to consider alternatives.

The May 19th meeting began with Brendan Fletcher, town accountant, reading an earnest statement acknowledging some shortcomings in his work habits and offering his thoughts on how to improve how he has been working: that doing municipal work is entirely different than commercial work which is what he is preparing for in school; that doing his schoolwork and the town's work has been very challenging; and that the town finances as he inherited them were in difficult shape. He was very clear in his determination to work through these issues and in his desire to serve the town well. The Select Board accepted his statement, acknowledging that there have indeed been multiple issues which have affected many departments and the Board's management. Discussion followed that prompted a new policy for streamlining the process of preparing warrants in a timely fashion for the Board to sign and have checks sent out, which hopefully will address some of the recent difficulties.

Town Facilities

Monterey School

Some questions were raised about the questionnaire that was sent out last year concerning the future of the school. Alan Salamon felt that the questionnaire wasn't properly worded and that the Select Board is ignoring the results and doing what they want. Scott Jenssen tried to clarify the misconception about the survey's intent, and Kenn Basler felt that another survey may be necessary. Steve Weisz pointed out that the school building and the school program are two separate issues. Steve, as chair of the Historical Commission of Monterey, reported that the Commission has declared that the Monterey School building is a significant historical asset of Monterey. On Wednesday, May 21, district and state officials visited the Monterey School; see the article on page 6.

Town Facility Task Force

A suggestion to add the Transfer Station to the list of facilities under consideration by the Town Facility Task Force was discussed at the May 5th meeting. Muriel Lazzarini felt the Transfer Station project should be considered separately as a capital expense, but Wayne and Scott felt that adding it to the Task Force list is a good idea.

Town Beach

Josh Allentuck, chair of the Park Commission, notified the Board that they have been unable to find any qualified lifeguards for the summer season. He is working with Berkshire South to add another lifeguard-certification program. Town Counsel has advised that should the town not be able to provide lifeguards, a sign should be posted stating "No Lifeguard on Duty, Swim at your Own Risk" and another calling for people under eighteen years of age to be accompanied by an adult.

Monterey Community Center

The question of mowing the property was raised by Michael Banner of the Friends of Wilson-McLaughlin House. The Friends' contract with the town leaves the mowing as a town responsibility. Last year some mowing and brush hogging were contracted. There is no line item in the

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FY 15 town budget for mowing, and the town does not have suitable equipment to mow. For this season, Michael Banner and Scott Jenssen have volunteered to mow grass in alternate months. Michael, on the Select Board's account, will contract brush hogging as needed.

The Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House have applied for two grants for the Community Center project: $60,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council capital fund, and $42,000 from Berkshire Bank's grant program. Michael said that the Friends feel the applications satisfy nearly all the criteria for these grant programs. The $60,000 grant would be a matching grant, but they were permitted to use the funds voted by the town last year for the match. They would need another $5,000 or so to complete the match. Should they be successful with both grants, they would need only $25,000 to complete the project. There are other grant opportunities as well, and they intend to finish the project with private money.

Building Department

Don Torrico, Building Commissioner, recommended the appointment of Thomas Carmody, the Sheffield and New Marlborough Building Inspector, as an alternate inspector for Monterey. Don also pointed out that permit fees have not changed since 2003. In some cases the current fees do not fully cover the cost of inspections. He feels it is time for him to conduct a review of neighboring town fees.

People Helping Our Town

Maggie Leonard was appointed as an election worker and Brendan Fletcher as a registrar. Michael Johnson was appointed to the Veteran's Memorial Committee.

Rosemary McAllister, who has moved to Great Barrington, resigned from the Board of Registrars. Muriel Lazzarini will be resigning from ECAC when her appointment ends.

Chief Backhaus's contract was renewed for FY15.

Robert Hungate of Housatonic was appointed as a part-time police officer. The Board approved his appointment through June 30, at which time he may be approved for a full year.

Julio Rodriguez has been elected as Chair of Veteran's Memorial Committee.

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Mass. Secretary of Education Visits Monterey School

When Massachusetts Secretary of Education Matt Malone visited the Southern Berkshire Regional School District late last year, he heard about the one-room schoolhouses in Monterey and South Egremont for the first time. And since seeing is believing, he scheduled a trip to come out and visit these community schools before the school year was over.

On May 21 Mr. Malone was greeted outside the Monterey School with doughnuts and warm smiles from almost twenty community members, including several town officials, members of the school committee, parents, and townspeople who had come to support the education program for Monterey students. Also greeting Secretary Malone were SBRSD staff including Superintendent David Hastings, Curriculum and Instruction head Kerry Burke, Business Administrator Bruce Turner, and Acting Principal Tom Nadolny.

Mr. Malone had praise for the people of Berkshire county who "tell it like it is" and seemed especially honored to meet Dick Tryon and hear that he had been a student at the Monterey School over seventy years ago. (A couple of days later Secretary Malone mentioned Mr. Tryon's military service during WWII on the MassEducation Twitter feed, sharing a

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picture of the two of them and reminding his followers to "honor those who served this Memorial Day.")

Mari Enoch, a parent of one of the kindergarten students, shared with Mr. Malone that she and her siblings as well as several nieces and nephews are all alumni of the Monterey School. Mr. Malone was excited to hear that not only did several of her siblings go on to Ivy League schools but that she herself was a graduate of Wellesley, the same college his mother had attended. It was important for him to hear that the Monterey School is notable not only for being a one-room schoolhouse but also for the quality education that students receive at the beginning of their academic careers.

Mr. Malone told the group that he knows there is pressure on superintendents to close small schools but that there is a lot of value in finding a way to keep them open. He announced that with his leadership, the Senate had passed a bill last month that would reopen a small community school in Worthington and that he supports the individualized education that happens in these small schools.

The Monterey School has an Early Kindergarten and Kindergarten program, led by teacher Lynn Webster. In the interest of expanding educational opportunities, the district adopted a policy earlier this year to allow more four-year-olds to enroll for the 2014–2015 school year. Mr. Malone encouraged this effort and reminded the SBRSD administrators that he had helped get more state funding for expanded pre-K programs for all four-year-olds in order to encourage early education services.

After some photos on the front step, Ms. Webster led everyone into the classroom to meet the students. They had prepared several songs to sing. They gave a rousing performance of "America the Beautiful," followed by "We Are All Earthlings," which related to the theme of Habitats. Some of the adults joined in the singing as well. The children did not seem phased at all that their classroom had been taken over by grown-ups, but they generously sat and showed their work to their visitors, reading their "Seed books" to Superintendent Dave Hastings and showing Mr. Malone their dioramas of diverse habitats.

Secretary Malone mentioned again and again how much he appreciated the way Ms. Webster had integrated the arts and sciences into the educational experiences of the students. He marveled at a "Cylinder Spacecraft" sculpture that the class had made and spoke of the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) projects like this one that help engage young minds. He said that this program reminded him of a Montessori learning experience, and he was impressed with the praise that a parent of a special-needs student had for the program. Having so many community members turn out for this visit was a wonderful way to show the appreciation Monterey has for its community school.

—Maria Rundle, SBRSD Committee,
and Lynn Webster, Monterey School

Steven Weisz

Mari Enoch (r), alumna of Monterey School, talks with Secretary of Education Matt Malone and teacher Lynn Webster in front of school.

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Town Election Results

On May 6, 158 of the 601 registered voters in Monterey voted in the election of town officers. In the only contested race, that for Select Board, Kenn Basler won, with 107 votes to Steven Weisz's 49.

Here are the vote counts for the uncontested races:

Board of Appeals (5 years)
Jonathan Levin 124

Board of Assessors (3 years)
Robert Lazzarini 124

Board of Health (3 years)
John Makuc 137

Cemetery Commission (3 years)
David Brown 134

Finance Committee (3 years)
Donald Clawson 138

Library Trustee (3 years)
Kenneth Basler 135
Laurie Shaw 130

Library Trustee (1 year)
Beth Reiter 120
MaryPaul Yates 122

Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc 131

Park Commission (3 years, vote for 2)
Kelly Funk 116
Gary Shaw 116

Planning Board (5 years, vote for 2)
Tom Sawyer 116
Roger Tryon 125

Quilt Panels on Display in Monterey Town Hall

Laraine Lippe

The next time you visit the Monterey Town Hall, we hope you will have a good look at two beautiful quilt panels that now grace the wall opposite the mailboxes. These quilt panels feature pictures painted by AIDS orphans during an African Action on AIDS workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and reflect each child's vision of "A World Without AIDS." The paintings (more than sixty in all) were brought to Monterey back in 2007 by Dr. Ruth Engo, president of African Action on AIDS, during her first visit here.

During that visit Dr. Engo expressed the wish that she would someday like to make a quilt from the paintings she had just carried from Cameroon to Monterey. It was her wish that sparked the idea for the *Vision of a World Without AIDS Quilt* and gave birth to the collaborative effort between a group of African children who had lost their parents to the AIDS epidemic and a group of Monterey women (now known as Monterey Meets Ngalla). With a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, two Monterey residents, Kathie Frome and Joan MacVicar, designed and sewed together the quilts that you will see. (By the way, these are only two of the original seven quilt panels that Kathie and Joan created! Three of the panels are now in Cameroon, and one of those panels may be finding its way into the National Museum in Yaoundé.)

When Dr. Ruth Engo was recently in town for her annual visit, she was very moved to be on hand to witness the hanging of the two quilt panels at our Town Hall on May 12. (Many thanks to Danny Hopkins who appeared to make it all possible!)

It is our hope that the quilts hung in Town Hall will serve as the springboard for a lasting relationship of mutual enrichment between Monterey and the network of villages served by African Action on AIDS and as a reminder of our interconnectedness with the global human community. The Vision of A World Without AIDS Quilt represents the hopes and dreams of African children for a better world, and the will of Monterey residents to help fulfill that dream.

If you wish to have more information about Monterey Meets Ngalla, please contact Kathie Frome at 413-528-2516. Also, please be on the lookout for some beautiful cards that will appear for sale around the holidays to raise funds to support the very worthwhile activities of African Action on AIDS in Cameroon.

—Laraine Lippe

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Memorial Day Parade 2014

On behalf of the Monterey Memorial Day Committee, I would like to thank all the participants in the parade this year:

- The Honor Guard made up of Veterans from Sandisfield and Monterey
- The Mount Everett Band
- The Monterey and New Marlborough Fire Departments
- Gould Farm
- The Monterey School kids and Monterey Youth Baseball
- 1933 Rolls Royce owned by Bob Herbert and driven by Lanny Lanoue with passenger Monterey WWII veteran Staff Sergeant Lenny Webber
- 1952 M38A1 Army Jeep owned by Scott and Teresa Steibel with passenger Monterey veteran Command Sergeant Major Julio Rodriguez.
- Bagpiper Matthew Phelps
- The Monterey Coffee Club 1965 Yellow Checker Cab owned and driven by Steven Weisz with passengers Richard Tyron, George Cain, and Dennis Lynch
- 1960 Rambler Six Super Cross Country Station wagon owned and driven by Larry Klein
- 1967 Jaguar XKE Series 1 Roadster owned and driven by Bob Herbert with passengers Emily Johnson and Ms. Gay Western Massachusetts 2014 (and this writer's son), Boxxa Vine
- Dogs on Parade: there were only two dogs this year; we hope to have more next year.

- Camp Hume New England
- Horses owned by Linda Gero and ridden by Linda and Ed
- The crowd favorite, Mr. Ding-a-Ling Ice Cream Truck
- The last vehicle was Monterey Police Department cruiser 1260.

We wanted the theme of this parade to be inclusion, which is an expression of the freedom that those who fell in war died protecting. I think that one person's blog entry summed it up best. It comes from Matthew Dicks, Gerry and Barbara Green's son-in-law, who came up from Connecticut to spend the day in Monterey.

My family spent the day with the in-laws in the tiny town of Monterey, Massachusetts, yesterday, enjoying their Memorial Day Parade and the free hot dogs.

The parade was delightful. The hot dogs were delicious (free makes everything taste amazing). The town's police sergeant treated us to free ice cream from the ice cream truck. The kids and I wrestled in the grass. We swung on swings. It was a perfect day.

But the best part of the festivities was when Ms. Gay Western Massachusetts came rolling on down the parade route, dressed in drag.

I never thought that I would see a black President in my lifetime.

I never thought I'd see legalized gay marriage in my lifetime.

I never thought that I would see a local police sergeant's son, dressed in drag, be celebrated in a Memorial Day parade as Miss Gay Western Massachusetts.

We have come so far.

The Memorial Day Committee would also like to thank all the people who came out to support and cheer on all the participants. Without the spectators and well-wishers we would not have the parade we have. So thank you, and if you took pictures please let me know so that we can put some on the web site. You can send them to Sergeant Michael Johnson, 435 Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245 or email them to mpdsgt1@verizon.net. Thanks and see you next year, when I hope even more will participate!

— Sergeant Michael Johnson,
Monterey Memorial Day Committee

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May at the Knox Gallery

Leonard Weber's Berkshire Impressions

Leonard Weber: 50 Years of Berkshire Impressions opens at the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library on Friday, June 6, with a reception from 7–8:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 7. The exhibit will run through July 5.

Leonard Weber grew up in Brooklyn and studied drawing at the Educational Alliance beginning at age twelve. World War II interrupted his studies, but as a veteran he benefitted from the GI Bill, which enabled him to attend the Art Students League in New York City. After launching his career as an independent artist—doing portraits, quick sketches and paintings—a chance encounter at an outdoor show led to his summer employment teaching art in Pittsfield, where he subsequently met his wife, Cynthia. A few years later the couple relocated to Monterey; Weber has been a fixture in our town for the fifty-five years since, where he owns and operates the Hayloft Gallery, selling his paintings and prints.

While travelling around the East Coast in his trailer in the 1950s, stopping along the way to paint towns that interested him, Weber began developing his unique style of townscapes—watercolor paintings that capture an individual community's essence by including features and buildings in a compressed panoramic setting. An exhibit of the townscapes led to his long-term association with a gallery owner in Japan, where Weber travelled many times, painting towns throughout the Japanese countryside.

Leonard Weber on location

Weber has sold prints of his town scenes to collectors in every state and many other countries. His work is also included in the Williams College Museum of Art, which purchased a painting that depicts the shutters on the Monterey General Store.

Now ninety-six and largely retired from his painting career, Weber has a lively existence in his home behind the Hayloft Gallery. He has amassed an interesting collection of memorabilia in the course of his travels, including a certificate as an "Honorary Citizen" issued to him by the governor of Maryland.

CLICKED! In Monterey

Please get your cameras tuned up and busy preparing for our upcoming community photography exhibit! For our summer community show we will ask each artist to submit one framed, ready to hang piece. All forms of photographic expression are encouraged: from film-based to digital capture, black-and-white darkroom to digital manipulation and alternative processing, montages to hand-colored photographs. Whether work is panoramic, macro, realistic or abstract, we request that it be made in Monterey during the preceding twelve months. We ask all friends and artists who would like to participate to submit an "Intent to Enter" form by Friday, June 20. The form should be available in the library and on the town website by the time you read this, and all instructions are on the form. Ready-to-hang work must be delivered to the library during normal hours on Monday, July 7, or Tuesday, July 8. The exhibit will open on July 11 with a reception the following evening, Saturday, July 12, from 6–7:30 pm, and will run through August 23. Surely interesting, creative, and varied pieces will fill the gallery this summer!

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours in the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road. Information is available on Facebook.com/Knox Gallery or @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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Wildlife in May

Monterey has been notable for its birds this past month, some of which have babies trotting along behind. Steve Snyder reports a killdeer with young at Gould Farm, also a woodcock parent and baby, right along a road. There are at least three kinds of swallows in town: tree swallows in a bluebird box here on East Hupi Road, and barn swallows in the Tryon barn on New Marlborough Road, and many bank swallows this year in the gravel pit in a place where the heavy machinery driven by the Tryon Construction Company goes quiet during this nesting time, giving the birds a break.

Steve also tells of bobolinks in the Scheffeys' field, orioles down along the Housatonic near the Sheffield covered bridge, and ruffed grouse both seen and heard. Steve often hears them, and he has also recently seen one. On May 27 he saw a pileated woodpecker.

Sharon Rosenberg has had a rose-breasted grosbeak at her feeder and so has Suzanne Sawyer who got some good photos. She says there are three pairs of them around her place, also bluebirds, and two or maybe three indigo buntings

Suzanne Sawyer's rose-breasted grosbeak and indigo bunting

(photo). She reported all of these on May 13. Maureen Banner has had an indigo bunting at the feeder every morning, also in mid-May, and there have been indigo buntings at the Gould Farm feeders, too.

Back at the end of April George Emmons called to say there had been a bald eagle by the ponds at the fish hatchery, looking for a meal, and we had a Cooper's hawk here trying to catch a red squirrel for lunch. Hawk and squirrel were going round and round a big white pine just outside our kitchen window, but the one with four legs and good claws for climbing had the advantage this time. The little hawk did an impressive job of flying around the tree in many tight circles, but had to give up in the end.

This has been a big bird month, but there have been mammals, too. Over at Gould Farm Steve reports many foxes, some adults and some adults with young. There are woodchucks and lots of porcupines.

Ed Salsitz saw a porcupine at night, at10 o'clock, on Fairview Road. It was walking slowly with its quills fanned out behind and then climbed a tree. Mary Kate Jordan gives us the bobcat sighting for May, walking along Stevens Pond Road on the 18th. Our only bear sightings for May come from Steve at Gould Farm, and he says there have been many.

Bonner McAllester and Cora Baker saw these animals at the Community Garden at the same time: one big cottontail rabbit and one black and white cat about the same size. They were on different parts of the driveway loop.

Send me your wild news, many thanks.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 or bmca@berkshire.net

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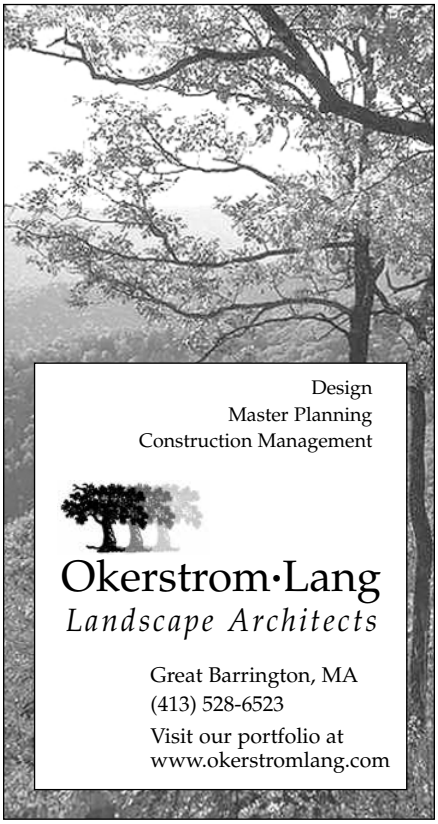

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JUNE

7TH 10AM VINCENT VAN GOGH: THE BOOKS HE READ
14TH 10AM HISTORIC HOMES: SANDISFIELD ARCHITECTURAL STUDY
14TH 1PM WHAT'S IT WORTH? APPRAISALS
14TH 8PM BILL STAINES, FOLK SINGER
21ST 10AM (CONT'D) HISTORIC HOMES
21ST 1PM (CONT'D) WHAT'S IT WORTH?
28TH 7:30PM UNDER MILK WOOD A PLAY BY DYLAN THOMAS, DIRECTED BY BEN LUXON

Funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Local Cultural Councils

Cultural Council June Events

Jazz by the Lucky Five quintet, in the Monterey Meeting House basement, Saturday, June 7, 7 p.m., an event that transports you to basement cafes of NYC or Montreal. Event is free. Light refreshments. Donations happily accepted.

A **Nature Walk**, Saturday, June 7, with Conrad Ohman, Forest Manager of Beartown and other state forests. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the intersection of Brett and Blue Hill Roads and explore a portion of the 115-acre Winter Farm. This property has a history of agriculture and mining. Features include a disappearing stream, small caves, large and small depressions in the ground (manmade or natural?), large limestone boulders, numbered trees, scattered artifacts, towering spruce, very large white pine, wetland habitat, and more than a dozen species of trees of varying size and age. The walk is generally easy, but young children will require some close supervision in a few places. Expect to spend between 1 to 2 hours, but easy exit along the way. Event is free. One word of caution—TICKS

Meet the *NY Times* best-selling author **B. B. Haywood**, aka Beth Feenan,at a book reception in her honor, Saturday, June 21, 4:30–6:00 p.m., at the Monterey General Store, 448 Main Rd., 413-528-5900. Event is free; signed copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Community Center News

The new water collection system for the Community Garden is hooked up and working well. The gutters on the house catch rainfall and deliver it into the 1100-gallon fiberglass cistern purchased for the garden. Kenn Basler and Peter Heller ran a pipeline from the cistern to valves down at the garden water tanks, and, voila, there is water out of the tap.

Ticket sales are under way for the raffle of the gorgeous quilt handmade for us by the Monterey Piecemakers, a group of talented local artists who meet regularly to quilt and create together. The quilt measures 72 inches x 98 inches, just right for a queen-size or even a king-size bed. There are posters to view around town, and you may also see a photo on our website (www.ccmonterey.org). We'll be selling tickets during the summer right up to the moment of the drawing at Octoberfest on October 11. Raffle tickets are $5 each, or 5 for $20. Look for ticket opportunities in the center of town on weekend mornings, at the beach, etc. You can also purchase tickets online (see above) using your credit card.

The Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House committee has just submitted grant applications to the Berkshire Bank Foundation and to the Massachusetts Cultural Council; we hope to hear good news by midsummer. As always, we welcome your input and your donations (fully tax-deductible), which you can make online at our website (above). Look there for photos of the construction work as it goes forward and for the latest news. Or if you'd rather, write us at PO Box 302, Monterey, MA 01245.

Painting Workshop at Monterey Community Center

The Monterey Community Center is initiating a "pre-program" program of events this summer on the grounds of the center at 468 Main Road, on the corner of Main and New Marlborough Roads. The first event will be a one-day painting workshop taught by Monterey painter Joe Baker on Saturday, July 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop will be open to all painters in any medium and will focus on plein air, or outdoor, painting on location; it will be held rain or shine. The class size will be limited, so please contact Joe Baker to register by calling 413-528-9385. Registrants will receive a list of suggested materials and equipment for the workshop. There will be a modest fee, which will be contributed to the Community Center's Capital Campaign.

—Joe Baker for FWMH

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June Bidwell House Museum History Talks

June 14: "Mary Bidwell"

The Bidwell House Museum History Talk series will open this year with a talk entitled "Welcoming Mary Bidwell: A Story of Love, Marriage and Politics in the 1790s Berkshire Hills— and the Story of a Portrait." In celebration of the donation of a portrait of Mary Gray Bidwell to the museum, Sam Herrup of Samuel Herrup Antiques in Sheffield will talk about portrait paintings and portraitists in early America. Then Rick Bidwell Wilcox will tell the fascinating story of the subject of the painting, Mary Gray (1764–1808), and her politician husband, Barnabas Bidwell (1763–1833). Barnabas was the son of Reverend Adonijah Bidwell, and he and his wife settled in Stockbridge. Their story is a fascinating glimpse of Berkshire life at the turn of the eighteenth century. The unveiling of the painting at the museum will follow.

June 28: "The Heathen School"

John Demos, Samuel Knight Professor of American History Emeritus at Yale University, will talk about his just-published book *The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal in the Age of the Early Republic*. It is an astonishing story of a unique missionary project in nearby Cornwall, Connecticut—and the America it embodied—from this award-winning historian and Tyringham resident.

Near the start of the nineteenth century, as the newly established United States looked outward toward the wider world, a group of eminent Protestant ministers formed a grand scheme for gathering the rest of humankind into the redemptive fold of Christianity and "civilization." Its core element was a special school for "heathen youth" drawn from all parts of the earth, including the Pacific islands, China, India, and, increasingly, the native nations of North America. If all went well, graduates would return to join similar projects in their respective homelands. For some years, the school prospered, indeed became quite famous. However, when two Cherokee students courted and married local women, public resolve—and fundamental ideals—were put to a severe test.

In *The Heathen School*, Demos follows the progress and the demise of this first true melting pot through the lives of individual students. From its birth as a beacon of hope for universal "salvation," the heathen school descends into bitter controversy, as American racial attitudes hardened and intensified. Instead of encouraging reconciliation, the school exposed the limits of tolerance and set off a chain of events that culminated tragically in the Trail of Tears.

Both talks will be held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham, at 10 a.m.

Bidwell House Museum Township No. 1 Day July 5

Township No. 1 Day, the free community celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history, is coming back, this year on Saturday, July 5, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Everyone is invited. Fun events are planned for the whole afternoon:

- Live music by local musicians
- Colonial re-enactors demonstrating 1700s camp life
- Exhibits by the Monterey Historical Society and the Tyringham Historical Commission
- Crafts, games, and face-painting for kids
- A baking contest for best cookies, cakes, and pies
- Timber-framing demonstration
- Butterfly gardening talk
- Forging demonstration
- And much more!

Bring your friends to spend a fun Saturday afternoon at the Bidwell House Museum on Art School Road. Enter a pie, cookies or cake in the contest! All events are free, thanks in part to the support of a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council and a fantastic group of volunteers. For more information, please call 528-6888.

Please note: the museum is closed for tours this day.

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A Home Conversation: Agriculture in Monterey

Monterey 2020 is an ongoing public forum where all people come together and, through Community Conversations, share current information, knowledge, and ideas, as well as propose solutions to current and future issues facing Monterey.

Dennis Lynch

On Sunday May 4, Elizabeth and Larry Silk graciously hosted the first "At Home Community Conversation." Fifteen folks gathered to talk about agriculture in Monterey—its past, present, and future.

It was the beginning of May, and our Community Conversation could have been called a Fireside Chat. Larry stoked the wood in his fireplace, and Elizabeth put out a delicious spread with Wayne Burkhart adding a hefty block of aged cheddar cheese from Gould Farm.

Dick, Barbara, and Roger Tryon provided the group with insightful perspectives on what farming was like many years ago and where we are now. In the past there were as many as twelve dairy farms; now there are two. Dick grew up on a Monterey dairy farm and told us about filling the quart bottles on a Friday night and then delivering milk door-to-door.

The Tryons talked about converting from a multicrop farm to the hay and maple syrup business now at Lowland Farm. They also discussed some of the many challenges facing those who still wish to farm. (Note: Due to weather, this was the worst maple syrup yield in thirty-five years.)

Dick harkened back to a time when the government subsidies to family farms helped keep farmers on their land, farming. For years, with the emergence of corporate large-scale farming, consumers were able to buy all sorts of food year round. But now there is a strong movement to grow, buy, and eat local produce. The problem is that there continues to be a lack of farmhands. With land prices skyrocketing, those who do have a desire to farm cannot afford to purchase land.

There are several programs in New England that connect aspiring young farmers with land. One organization that the Tryons have been involved with since its inception is Berkshire Grown. Wayne would like to encourage more of us to support and participate in Berkshire Grown. Steven Weisz and Elizabeth Silk had just been to an event the previous week and seconded Wayne's suggestion.

Then a question was raised: "Could Monterey benefit from a local program to pair individuals who are interested in farming, with available farmland?"

The answer came in a story that Steve Schwartz shared. It seems that Evan Williams from Glass Bottom Brewery wanted to use several acres to grow hops for making beer. As he could not locate any information on available farmland, he decided to go to Great Barrington to farm. Dick added that we can grow hops here.

Steven Weisz suggested that Monterey could benefit from an "Available Land Inventory" and volunteered to research establishing one in collaboration with the Monterey Agricultural Commission. The use of a current Available Land Inventory could potentially put together the landowner with a farming lessee with resulting income for both the landowner and the farming lessee, who would in turn produce locally grown crops. That's a win-win situation for Monterey agriculture and the local economy.

The conversation continued as Wayne Burkhart shared news about Gould Farm hiring a new young farmer, and the farm's work with 4H. The farm may add sheep and goats, as well. He reminded us that

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Gould Farm has a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), which is a type of farm membership in which people pay for vegetables at the beginning of the season and pick them up during and after the summer and fall harvest.

The discussion then became lively, with topics ranging from Gould Farm's growth capacity to water resources and energy to the feasibility of a regular Monterey Farmer's Market.

Thom Scheffey (Lew's son) spoke of his father's and Bob Theriot's contributions to preserving land here in Monterey. Thom would like to see land preservation for farming and open space be an ongoing commitment on the part of Monterey residents.

Action Items: Grow More Food Here in Monterey

The conversation wrapped up by discussing "Action Items," ideas we can implement NOW as interested participants in Monterey's present and future. Those gathered spoke about a desire to grow more food here in Monterey and what it will take.

The first action item is that the Monterey Agriculture Commission should be revitalized. Dick Tryon agreed to call a meeting of the commission. It was mentioned that there is currently an available seat to join him and Bettina Schwartz. Wayne Burkhart will look into who from Gould Farm might join the commission. If you are interested in serving on the Agriculture Commission, please let Dick Tryon know. The Agriculture Commission meetings will (of course) be open to the public.

An update report will be presented at the June 7th Community Conversation at Monterey Town Hall, 10 am. At the meeting you can also enjoy a bit of Monterey history by listening to "The Ballad of Route 23" with Karl Finger (CDs will be available for purchase) and watching a clip from *Monterey Lights The Way*.

Continuing Community Conversations At Home

Hosting an At-Home Community Conversation is a wonderful way to get together with neighbors, friends, and family to find out what is going on in Monterey, discuss what is possible, and do some "blue-sky thinking" about our future.

There will be an "At Home Conversation" soon hosted by Kathryn Roberts, bringing together second homeowners.

Please let us know if you are interested in hosting a Community Conversation in your home. It can be of any topic(s) that you feel connected to. You can leave a message on the Monterey2020.org website or contact Dennis Lynch or Wendy Germain

—Dennis Lynch & Wendy Germain

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Monterey Library Notes

Thanks to Linda Thorpe, who for years planted the flowers in front of the World War I monument with the Girl Scouts and has since continued to do it on her own. She's always sure to have it looking good for Memorial Day!

Mark your calendars for July 5 at 10:30 a.m. Jeff Boyer came to the library two years ago as the Bubble Man—and wowed everyone when he created a bubble completely around Cara Carroll! He'll be back on July 5 with his Fun with Energy program. He's sure to keep all ages interested. Check out the library calendar on the Town of Monterey website (www.montereyma.gov) for the rest of the summer programming: some new faces and some old ones with new programs. Thanks to the Friends of the Monterey Library and the Monterey Cultural Council for sponsoring this series!

As we have for many years now, and thanks again to the Friends for helping to sponsor this, we are offering many museum passes for the summer. The list hasn't been finalized yet, but we expect it to be the same as the last few years. If you weren't aware, the library has passes that you take out to gain either free or reduced admission to different venues. The passes may only be used by one patron at a time, so feel free to call ahead to see if the pass you want is available.

Finally, the Friends are putting their finishing touches on getting the book sale ready for the last Saturday in July. We do not accept donations for the two weeks before the book sale, so start thinking about bringing your unwanted books down. Please mark your calendar to spend a couple of hours helping out with the sale as well—thank you.

—Mark Makuc, Library Director

Who's Who in Monterey
Nina and Aiden

Liz Goodman

We'd agreed to meet early, at 8:30 in the morning, so it was no surprise that when I arrived Aiden and Nina were still in their pajamas. It was still less so when I learned that their Nana and Papa had been visiting over the weekend and had worn them out, so they were especially slow getting going this Monday morning.

On Sunday, their Nana had taken them for a hike on Diane's Trail at Gould Farm before heading over to Truck Day at Butternut, while their Papa helped their father paint the new baby's room.

The new baby is to come in early July—a girl, which makes Nina "a little bit excited," but Aiden less so. He would prefer a little brother, but he said so smiling, cheeks deeply dimpled, so I anticipate that everything will work out just fine.

Aiden and Nina are four-year-old twins, Monterey natives whose parents moved here when they were just starting out in their careers. Coming into their kitchen on the morning of our meeting, a bright morning that was prelude to a changeable spring day, I found them finishing breakfast while their mother cleaned up. They were also at work on cards for their preschool teacher, who'd just had a baby herself.

"It popped out," Aiden explained, so he was making a picture of a bunny rabbit, a brown semicircle with white plastic straws glued to the blue paper. Nina's card folded and on the top inside was a picture of a castle and on the bottom inside was a picture of "a person sitting in the sun under the shade of the sky." They were using thick crayons, but they also had nearby their thin magic markers, both of which they both liked, but Aiden likes his paint pens most of all. "Is the tip of those like a paint brush?" I asked, and he said, "Yes."

Nina then showed me a Styrofoam cup in which was some soil, a burrowed seed unseen, and a popsicle stick that promised in black handwriting: "Morning Glory." She explained that she would plant this in the garden they had outside. I noticed then that her bangs looked freshly trimmed, which I asked about. She explained that her mother had trimmed them and that "it tickles" when the trimmings fall on her nose and face, but she doesn't mind.

Climbing down from their booster seats now, the two decided (at their mother's suggestion) that we should go outside, which meant first they would need to get dressed for the day. So they guided me upstairs where they would show me their bedroom, all the while telling me about their sleepwear.

Nina's was a red velour nightgown and Aiden's was a red velour pajama set, both of which had white snowmen embroidered into the cloth. "These are our Christmas pajamas," Nina, the more talkative (and the older) of the two, explained. For clarification I asked whether that meant they'd received them on Christmas morning as a gift or had worn them to bed on Christmas Eve, and Nina explained that they'd received them the day before Christmas to sleep in that night. Then, in the morning when they woke up, they drove all the way to Pennsylvania where their Nana and Papa live. It was a very long drive.

Upstairs in this homey farmhouse, the two share a bedroom in which are two matching toddler beds and a double-sized mattress on the floor on which they now jumped and jumped. "Is this strictly a jumping bed?" I asked, and they explained that it serves many purposes. Sometimes they sit here before bed to hear a story, and sometimes one of their parents sleeps here if Aiden or Nina is having a rough night, and sometimes they move it into another room for guests to use, and sometimes it's just for jumping, like now. Each of the toddler beds was crowded with stuffed animals, so I asked if there are any that are especially important to have for sleeping. Aiden showed me his baby lion and a dinosaur that are crucial, and Nina, jumping, told me about her white blanket and her bear.

I excused myself from their room to wait in the hallway while each got dressed (their mother having picked out their clothes). Nina was the first to emerge—in a striped tunic with tights and polka-

dotted socks. She held a stuffed animal, a pink owl. They'd gone to a place—"It's called a gift shop," she said, pausing to remember what it's called—and it was in a place where there were some penguins. Aiden joined us then, and he was holding a stuffed toy turtle. This also had come from the place where there are penguins, and I asked if maybe the place was an aquarium. "Yes," they both agreed; that was it. I asked, "Was this in Boston?" Yes, again. I told them that I love the aquarium in Boston—loved it when I was their age and love it still. They'd gone when they were in Boston visiting their cousins, whom they told me about as we went back down the stairs.

Uncle Mike lives there, and their cousins do as well. Nina likes her cousins, but Aiden is less sure, Nina explained. One of the cousins sometimes pushes him, Nina said. Aiden quietly went to his sneakers and, sitting in a rocking chair, put them on one by one.

Nina retrieved her sneakers and sat in the same rocking chair that Aiden had just vacated. He sat next to me on the bench and showed me his sneakers, which are blue with Velcro closures. They'd also just got new sandals, and I wondered if suddenly they'd growm out of their old shoes, or was it just that summer was coming and they needed new shoes for a new season. They weren't sure which it was, but Nina is sure she likes her sneakers, which are sparkled with pink trim.

Their mom helped them on with their jackets, light for spring but withstanding of the wind. Each zipped up his or her own jacket, and I noticed how self-reliant they both are. "Do you think that's because there are two of you?" They assented to this as they led me outside.

We walked past Kylie, the family's Great Dane, and I wondered who was taller, Kylie or them. Nina said Kylie probably was because her head is tall.

In their fenced-in yard, Nina showed me the birdhouse she'd painted and put in the crabapple tree. This is so "the birds can fly out and eat the apples." Aiden went to his new bike, which Nina first told me about back at the breakfast table. "Aiden's is yellow with black" and Nina's is "pink and blue with red handlebars." He stood astride it now where it lay in the grass and lifted it and sat on it. But then his mom reminded him about his helmet, and he went off in search of that.

Nina looked for hers, too, and it was just a matter of moments before both were helmeted and set off.

These are balance bikes with no pedals or training wheels, the latest innovation in learning to ride a bike. Better than training wheels on a pedaled bike, these get the children used to doing the work of balancing; and Aiden especially has mastered it. He could glide all the way down the slope from the corner of his yard to the corner of the neighbor's.

They rode together, their paths braided and intertwined; and I asked about school. They both like school; they both like to play there. Nina plays "dress-up and a lot of games," and Aiden likes to play with his friend Raine. Raine and Nina are less compatible: one day Raine saw Nina and Aiden approaching school just as she was but from the other end of Gould Road. All three began to run toward school, and Aiden and Raine arrived at the same time, while Nina arrived a moment later. That made her "super angry." Mostly, Aiden said, he plays with Nina.

Tired of their bikes for now, the two approached the garden next to which their mother and I sat. They've planted flowers and peas, and might soon a tomato plant. The peas had begun to come up.

Aiden then went to the fence and climbed over it, going in search of his garden tool. Having found it (with his mother's help, she who lifted herself, eight months pregnant, off the grass to walk around to the gate and then to the front porch to look among the toys and things there for a hand-held hoe before she returned to sit in the grass), Aiden climbed back over the fence to us and began hoeing the soil while Nina told me about some Main House people she knows, Main House being the place where her mother works.

Brett is a Main House person who comes over sometimes and whom she likes to poke, and there's a silly woman at Main House named Lisanne who told Nina a story about the Prince and the Toot. (For more about Lisanne, see February's "Who's Who.")

Our conversation wound down now, as each took turns sitting in their mother's lap. Aiden's favorite song is "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," and Nina's is "I Am a Rainbow." Aiden's favorite book is *Where Bunny Rabbit's Going*, and Nina's is *Fancy Nancy*, which had me supposing that this reminded her of her mother, whose name is Nancy. Nina thought that was possible. It's likely Aiden would also agree.

—Liz Goodman

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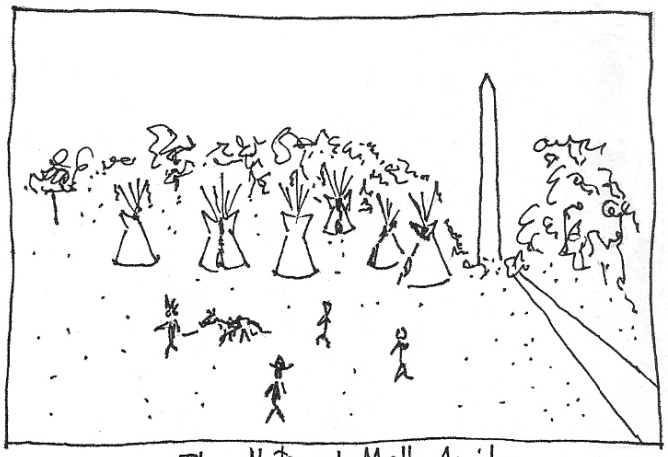
Grokking the Cowboys, Indians, and Catbirds

"Social media" are on my to-understand list. I think these are the media that come through a computer or a cellphone, using binary code. As for social, I know what that is. That is getting together.

Thanks to social media I can find out about trouble in the world, about plans for folks to organize to make things better. Often I am given a small spot on which to click, so I can organize and work with these folks without ever meeting them. Sometimes I learn of an old-style gathering of warm bodies, in a room or maybe on a big grassy mall with the Washington Monument in the middle of it.

Recently I learned through social media of a midnight bus at the high school parking lot in Lee, Massachusetts. I could climb on with other warm bodies, ride to that distant National Mall in Washington, DC, and be part of a gathering on the last day of the Cowboy Indian Alliance and their Reject and Protect ceremony. This was another demo, another protest march, another red-eye ride to a central place to stand up with other folks with our message. I went to add to the numbers, to continue my witness for clean air and the future of life on the planet. I wanted to see for myself, to come back and tell about it. I know I am the lucky one who got to go, the one who had the bus fare, the time, the information. I went because I have been before and I want to feel connected with others working for peace and justice. Some folks devote their lives to this kind of organizing and work. People ask them, "Don't things look worse than ever, now? Don't you get discouraged?"

"I get angry!" That's what our friend Frances said years ago, when my mom asked her the "discouraged" question.



The National Mall, April

Mom has been gone twenty years, but Frances is ninety-five and still standing with others, still being led away in handcuffs. She does all she can to build community, as she puts it, to get people to work together on things that matter.

I have been to Washington with Frances, been in the paddy wagon with the plastic bracelets on, come home to talk about it. I go down there to the demo and look around at the people, listen to some speeches, get angry along with the others. I also get stronger with others, whether they are my seat mate on the long bus ride or a couple I see on the Mall with a sign, "We are here for our grandchildren" and then the photos of their young folks. I get stronger looking at the people on stage, hearing their words, and identifying with them—all of them. In the old language of Robert Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land*, I am "grokking" these people.

Last month at the Cowboy Indian Alliance (yes, CIA) event, this was a grok that was cross-cultural, cross life-style, international, cross-racial. When I got off the bus, what I saw were a lot of tipis on the National Mall. Who has ever seen such a thing? Indian tipis, so simple and handsome under the early sky, and rising up behind them the spire of the Washington Monument. Some tipis were plain white canvas, some decorated with painted symbols and figures. All had the slim pole ends sticking up high above the cover, reaching for the morning sky and decorated with streamers off the tips, catching the live breeze of the world, the moving air of the city and beyond.

Walking around, taking in the scene, grokking full bore, I was with folks off the early buses, some from much farther away than Lee, Massachusetts. As the morning went on, the crowd grew until we were thousands together on the ground, stretching far in all directions. A man on stage played a wooden flute and then the ceremony began. This was a water cer-

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emony, led by a Ponca Indian who had brought water from the Ogallala aquifer in Nebraska. We watched this water splash onto the ground, into the same earth that holds us all. There were Indians speaking in their languages, also speaking in English, guiding us in a prayer for ourselves and our earth and all that resides here, whether rocks, earth, air, water, animals, plants. All this is what the white American writer Aldo Leopold called the Land Community. This includes those breezes stirring the tipi-pole decorations.

On this day no one rode off in paddy wagons. Some folks rode horses, with decorated saddles and headstalls, leading our walk to the Museum of the American Indian down on one side of the Mall. We carried a tipi cover to donate to the museum in the name of President Obama. We wanted him to grok the Land Community, to immediately stop the building of the Keystone XL Pipeline by the TransCanada Corporation. The pipeline is intended to carry toxic corrosive crude petroleum from Alberta, Canada to the coast of Texas, USA. It will cross the home country of these cowboys and Indians, the ranchers and the indigenous people of the Great Plains, and the Ogallala aquifer. Pipelines built by this company and others continue to break, to burst, to leak. The tar-sands oil poisons rivers for miles; its fumes make people sick. Wherever oil spills, from pipes or from CSX freight train derailments, there are explosions, deaths, evacuations. These are only the immediate human lifestyle consequences.

* * * *

My trip was good. I got with other people, identified with them. I came home to my own precious land community, where I start the day watching sunrise from the top of the garden. Lately I am there with the male catbird, and he is singing away every kind of phrase and tidbit he cares to. I recognize some as songs he picked up from the wood thrush, the towhee. I don't speak these languages, but I sit up there smiling and feeling lucky to be born, to live my time socially in this place. When I think about the threats and mistakes, the dangers and injustices, I get angry. Anger helps me stay strong, but only if I am also grokking the catbird, the cowboys, and the Indians.

—Bonner J. McAllester

Estella Bodnar Honored as Unsung Heroine

Estella Bodnar of Monterey travelled to the State House in Boston on May 29 to be honored as anUnsung Heroine. Estella was recommended to State Representative Smitty Pignatelli by BRIDGE director, Gwendolyn VanSant (also of Monterey), and Rep. Pignatelli wholeheartedly agreed. According to VanSant, "BRIDGE would not be what it is today without Estela's quiet steady support. She leads with deep wisdom, faith, and experience. It is a pleasure to honor those quiet strong leaders—especially a woman. Estella deserves this recognition and I am thankful to Rep. Pignatelli for seeing what she has brought to the Berkshires."

VanSant went on to say: Estella has served the Berkshires for over thirty years as an interpreter and community advocate for Berkshire County. She has worked at the Southern Berkshire Educational Collaborative Adult Basic Education program and also at Volunteers in Medicine. Estella has medically interpreted for hundreds of new immigrants navigating our healthcare system for the first time and has provided support to immigrants of all backgrounds, offering integration support to all English Language Learning students. Estella, daughter of immigrants, dedicated her life service in the Berkshires to helping all immigrants acclimate and to encourage them to overcome their language and cultural barriers head on by continuing with the ELL courses, but most importantly empowering them to have a voice through initiatives like the first Berkshire Latino radio show. Estella has been honored by the immigrant community of the Berkshires as their savior, angel, and mother. I have witnessed people saying they found a home in the Berkshires with Estella's help. I have witnessed repeated tearful testimony that those who have not been able to return to their native lands to see their parents or a parent who has died have felt Estella has been that connection. She spiritually embodies their families. Estela has shown and lived what it means to be a welcoming presence in Berkshire County. She has given with her heart and led with her wisdom and experience."

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❊

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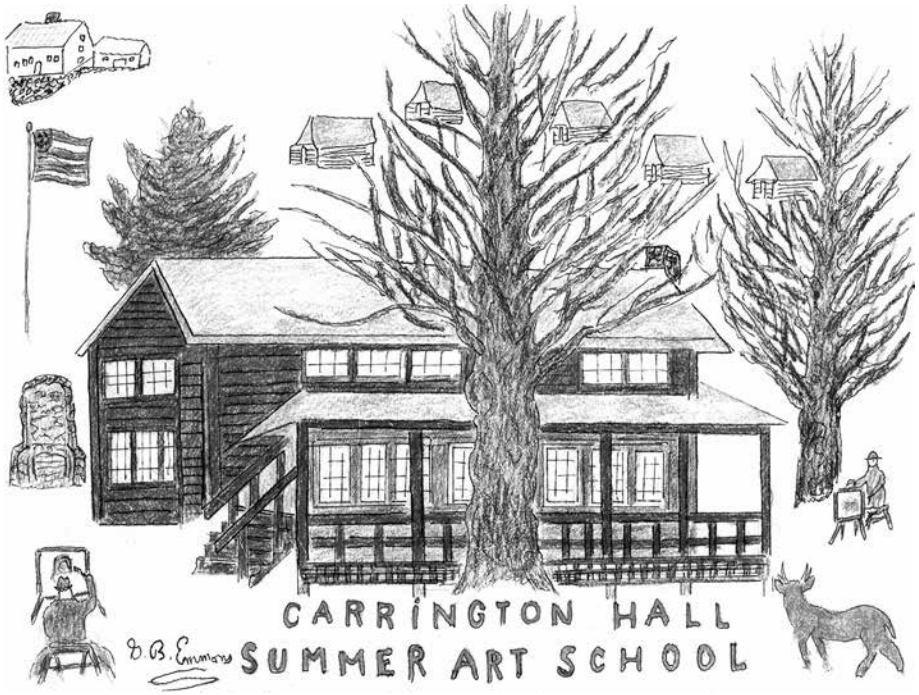

At the site of first town center on Beartown Mountain Road, ancient maple trees stand sentinel where colonial stone walls may outline the route Henry Knox took in 1776. Traces of the old Boston Albany Post Road may also have been blazed from the old Indian trail into Greenwoods, not conducive for a train of heavy cannons on what Knox would remember as a hard passage. On Saturday, July 5, the Bidwell House Museum will hold the annual Township #1 Day there, which will include a colonial encampment to celebrate colonial history.

The turn from Tyringham Road onto Art School Road begins a country-mile journey back in time more than two centuries to the historic Bidwell Museum (1750). The first house on the right-hand corner of Tyringham Road is the Deacon Hale House (1747), now the residence of Frank Kern, artfully restored by master builder Michael White. On the opposite corner stood the one-room Morse Schoolhouse, one of seven in Monterey, now also a private residence.

Near the end of Art School Road, the Bidwell House Museum will hold the annual Fundraising Gala on August 2nd, by revisiting the Berkshire Summer School of Art. Carrington Hall, where the Summer School was founded in 1915, stands on property now owned by Bidwell House neighbors Martin and Jane Schwartz. The school owned all 400 acres of both properties including the Bidwell house, which was used as a residential administrative headquarters.

Situated at 1800 feet elevation, Carrington Hall, with its impressive view from the front porch, was the Art School center for social life, lectures, entertainment, music, dancing, and dining. Students lived in cozy "bungalows," nine-by-twelve-foot wooden structures covered by canvas and furnished with all the housekeeping needs. The total fee, including living expenses, for the entire six-week program from July 7 through August 15 was $185 after a $5 fee for registration.

Students earned certificates of credits for completion of two summers of courses and lectures chosen from a wide range of topics: nature drawing, advertising posters, design and color, landscape painting,

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Raymond P. Ensign and Ernest W. Watson founded the School in 1915 after advanced training at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Raymond later became director of the Chicago Art Institute. After the Art School closed in 1936, he bought and established Brookbend Inn and also served on the town committee that formed the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Two artists arrived at the inn in the late 1940s, Edith Wilson and Marjorie McLaughlin, both graduates of the Chicago Art Institute. Edith designed the Monterey town seal and also became first art editor of the *Monterey News*.

The name Art School Road recalls the original center, a cultural legacy for present-day Monterey artists and designers. The inspiration is carried forward by the Friends of Monterey Library and the Monterey Cultural Council with the shows by local artists at the Knox Gallery. On August 2, make a festive visit to Carrington Hall for the Bidwell House Gala to celebrate where it all began.

—George B. Emmons

Viola Concert by Eric Martin

On Friday evening, May 23, Eric Martin and friends played a free concert to a packed church of residents and friends from a wide area. It was, as Eric explained, a "thank you" concert. Back in December, as he was preparing to play a Christmas concert in Ashley Falls, his viola broke. Francis Morris, an instrument maker and dealer in Great Barrington, quickly provided him with a loaner, but Eric knew he was going to have to invest in a replacement. Liz Goodman, and another friend of his, Susan Mino, independently thought of a way to help Eric. They emailed everyone they could think of who knew Eric and his playing, telling of his plight and suggesting they send him contributions toward the cost of a replacement.

To Eric's surprise, before long he had received money equivalent to the trade-in value of his old instrument. In addition, he had offers of other kinds of help. Folks helped connect him to instrument dealers. Other musicians lent their time, and their ears, to listen as Eric tried out a dozen different instruments at home. He said, "I really appreciate their patience because I just have a hard time making decisions!" Colleen Johnson had worked in an instrument shop out in the San Francisco area, which ended up loaning Eric the "winning" viola, coincidentally made in Boston.

And so he decided to thank everyone by performing many of the different genres he loves, and inviting friends he regularly plays with. He started off, without introduction, by playing a J. S. Bach prelude. From that beginning he played English country dance medleys, a Scottish Aire, a Bach sonata accompanied by harpsichord, two folk songs, and a contra dance medley.

He had six friends waiting in the wings to join him. Fellow Monterey folks Stephen Enoch, John Sellew, and Patty Fox; Doug Schmolze, Jamie Vlcek, and Larry Wallach from Great Barrington; and Karen Axelrod from Northampton. As an added feature, he shared a dozen "tasteful viola jokes" on the backside of his program, just so we could all know that he does not take himself too seriously.

The program ended with a standing ovation of thanks and admiration for his gift of so much music.

—Stephen Moore

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"Garden Gustation"

What's Cooking from Monterey Gardens and Farms

Gustation? The Encarta Dictionary states: *"the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste"*

Going Green!

No, not the usual catchphrase, but what we're eating! Our hoop house (greenhouse) has come alive with greens now, and what a pleasure that this cool spring has kept them looking so nice for so long! We have tatsoi, several varieties of lettuce, arugula, cilantro, radicchio, and one of my personal favorites, spinach. I have two different varieties of spinach right now, Space and Bordeaux. The Bordeaux variety has lovely burgundy-colored stems, which always add some nice color to salads. I'll add spinach to almost anything; tonight we had it on our pizza, but I really love it cooked with eggs and/or cheese.

The garden is coming together slowly this year, and I'm quite fine with that. The cooler temperatures have kept some of the weeds at bay and given the early shrubs and perennials a longer-than-usual blooming period. It's been great weather for working in the garden but most of the time a bit too chilly to have our morning tea on the porch. I'm sure that will change.

Stephen Moore

Our tomato seedlings (on the dining room table) have grown to be about 16 inches tall and VERY eager to find some warm earth and sunshine. I have been holding off with the cool temps and hope to get them planted out the first week of this month, a bit later than usual. Otherwise, we are enjoying our plentiful asparagus and the robust growth of the garlic we planted last fall. There seems to be a great deal of blossoms on the blueberry bushes too. Now if we could have some more bees!

Spinach Gratin

A friend of mine brought this to a holiday get-together. There was nothing left in the dish! I believe it came from *Barefoot Contessa Parties* via the Food Network.

2 Tblsp. butter
2 cups chopped onions
1½ Tblsp. flour
½ cup heavy cream
1 cup milk
1½ lbs. frozen, chopped spinach, defrosted, or your own, lightly sautéed.
½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
1½ tsp. kosher salt
pepper
¼ cup grated Gruyere cheese

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Melt the butter in a sauté pan over medium heat. Add the onions and sauté until translucent, about 15 minutes. Add the flour and cook, stirring, for 2 more minutes. Add the cream and milk and cook until thickened. Squeeze as much liquid as possible from the spinach and add the spinach to the sauce. Add ¼ cup of the Parmesan cheese and mix well. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Transfer the spinach to a baking dish and sprinkle the remaining ¼ cup Parmesan and the Gruyere on top. Bake for 20 minutes until hot and bubbly. Serve hot.

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

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Above: For the tenth straight year, it was the youth players over their parents in the annual Memorial Day Players versus Parents baseball game at Greene Park in Monterey. The team of Monterey Baseball League 8-11-year-old players outlasted their parents, who complained of sore arms, bad backs, and tired knees after two innings. Photo by Melissa Zdziarski)

Below: The Monterey Baseball Cal Ripken League has fielded two AAA baseball teams this season with players from Otis, Monterey, Sandisfield, and surrounding towns. The Blasters and The Crushers are 8-11-year-old players who play a sixteen-game schedule, with home games at Greene Park in Monterey. (Photo by Steve Graves)

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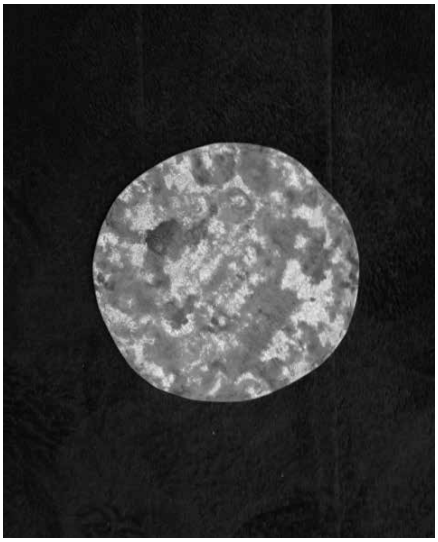
From the Meetinghouse
Keeping Company with the Moon

This month the lacy green of the trees' new leaves is memory again and harvest season hasn't arrived yet. We're caught between the two: something important already ended, something else important not yet begun. Rather like this month's crop of graduates, we have to decide how to navigate June.

Will I use it as an opportunity to relax, kick back, celebrate like there's no tomorrow? Will I emulate the local farmers and busy myself with the dawn-to-dusk tasks that fill the season between new leaves and full harvest? Both those options have their benefits and drawbacks. But perhaps I'll make a third choice: use this time to take a page from the roots of our shared, multilayered rural New England heritage. I'm going back to an old attitude that's always also new.

Time was when both the natives and the newcomers all paid close attention to the moon. She was the watchdog of the seasons, a timekeeper for both hunter and farmer. She also served as an icon of hope. Even the late-winter Hunger Moon had an up side: *hold on; we're in the home stretch. Food will be available in just a few weeks. You can do this. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger.*



Mary Kate Jordan

Even early into the just-past century, most people knew how to at least sip from the cup she offers. It's a chalice filled to the brim with wisdom: her regular monthly and annual cycles of presence, growth, waning, vanish, return. She's a common bond we Berkshire residents share, North American native, colonial newcomer, contemporary New England born and occasional-resident second homeowner.

Keeping conscious company with the moon breaks our chains of preoccupation with past or future. She teaches us to be more fully here now, here now, where the life is. This year June starts with a new moon, a time the old traditions aligned with new beginnings. Care to join me in beginning to pay new attention to this old, old teacher? Just go outdoors and look up once each evening this month. Go on a scavenger hunt for the moon.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Remembering Patricia Amstead

Patricia Ann Amstead, 74, of Fox Hill Road, Monterey, died peacefully at home on May 10, 2014. She was born in Canaan, Connecticut, on January 29, 1940, daughter of the late Michael J. Oates and Eleanor Commons. Patricia attended New Marlborough Central School and graduated from Mount Everett High School in 1958.

She married Donald Amstead Jr. on Feb. 27, 1960, in East Canaan, Connecticut. She raised their five children in Monterey and after many years as a homemaker worked for the Town of Monterey before retiring. Patricia enjoyed bowling, traveling to Vermont, Maine, and Canada, and spending time with her family.

Patricia is survived by her husband of 54 years, Donald Amstead Jr.; her five children, Mark Amstead and his wife, Theresa, of Monterey, Keith Amstead of Sheffield, Glen Amstead of Monterey, Scott Amstead of Monterey, and Jill Hughes and her husband, Tim, of North Egremont; seven grandchildren, Taylor, Cody, Molly, Mitchell, Matthew, and Cheyenne Amstead and Caitlin Hughes; a great-grandson, Jordan Little; a brother, Shaun Oates of California, as well as her nephew, Shane Oates, and many aunts, uncles and cousins. She was predeceased by her brother, Michael Oates.

Donations in memory of Patricia may be made to either HospiceCare in the Berkshires or the Alzheimer's Association through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances may be sent to her family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.

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Civility in Town Meeting

To the Editor:

May 3, 2014

I've been a resident of Monterey for sixteen years and a participant in the annual Town Meeting for all of those years. Though there has often been a vigorous, healthy, and sometimes protracted debate over various warrant articles, not until this year's meeting have I witnessed what occurred today: a breach of civility and the social contract.

When members of a community gather once a year to make decisions about the future of their town, there is an expectation of civil discourse, where each resident is afforded the opportunity to share their point of view, and to listen to the point of view of others. From time to time there are issues that are polarizing, and we should expect disagreement—this is the nature of democracy, and it's all the more personal in a small town where we're looking each other in the eye while those disagreements are aired. But in a civilized place, we don't try to shout others down, call them names, tell them to shut up, or otherwise cut off their communications.

Attendance at town meeting is a right and responsibility of Monterey's residents. They shouldn't have to be subjected to aggressive personal attacks and discourteous behavior from their neighbors. The declining attendance at recent town meetings should concern us all, as it indicates that some of our citizens already feel marginalized; those who would bully their way to "victory" should think long and hard about the part they play in creating an atmosphere of intimidation, in what should be a cooperative endeavor.

—Lisa Smyle

Can Constructive Conversation Really Happen?

To the Editor:

Town Meeting . . . It's democracy in its purest form. We are a small New England town with some very big issues in front of us. We gather once a year to discuss these issues and then cast our vote. It sets the stage for the direction of the town for the coming year.

There is a comment period before every vote that is brought to the floor. It is a time when, if so moved, you can stand in front of the "Town" and express your thoughts concerning certain articles and, with luck, clear up any lingering questions you may have about the topic so you can feel confident with the vote you are about to cast. I feel this time for comments sets the tone of the discussion and is very much a part of a larger ongoing conversation.

This year's Town Meeting was marked by snide remarks and insults while others took to the floor to express their viewpoints and concerns about certain topics up for a vote. This type of behavior is not only rude, it's hurtful, demeaning, and completely undermines any meaningful and constructive dialogue.

When I came home from the meeting I was struck by something I read in "Monterey 2020 Community Conversations" in the last issue of the *Monterey News*: "Through Conversations we talk about who we are as a community . . . what is important to us, and ways to move forward together with constructive resolution to present-day Monterey issues that will help guide our future."

Maybe the most important conversation should be: How do we move forward from here welcoming opposing viewpoints. To consider all viewpoints should make for "a more vibrant Monterey future." Unfortunately, for me, the very purpose of a community conversation was undermined by the actions at town meeting.

How we agree to disagree really sets the stage for any meaningful conversation. I fear human nature will, again, get in the way . . . It's a huge challenge. I left Town Meeting feeling very disheartened, but I hope that more civil conversation can take place in the upcoming months.

—John Sellew

Congratulations, Kenn!

To the Editor:

I would like to publically congratulate Kenn Basler for his win as Monterey's newest Selectboard member. While I would have liked to prevail, I want him to know that he has my full support.

I would also like to thank the people of Monterey for taking the time to talk to me about their concerns and ideas for our town. I want you to know that I pledge to do whatever I can to keep Monterey a special place in which to live.

—Steven Weisz

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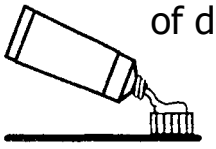
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Lela Reynolds

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m., except 4 p.m. on 2nd Monday of month.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9–10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Park Commission.

Every Wednesday: Christian Meditation Group, Pittsfield. To learn more, call Val Latona, 413-528-3512.

Every Sunday and Holiday: Monterey Adult Softball for co-ed players teenage and up, 10 a.m., Greene Park.

Friday, June 6:

Composting Workshop with CET, 3 p.m., Town Hall.

Opening reception for exhibition of Joe Baker's paintings, 5–8 p.m., Whitney Center for the Arts, 42 Wendell Ave in Pittsfield. Show runs through June 29.

Saturday, June 7:

Nature walk at Winter Farm led by Beartown Forest Manager Conrad Ohman, 1 p.m. Meet at intersection of Brett and Blue Hill Roads. See p. 12.

Opening reception for *Leonard Weber: 50 Years of Berkshire Impressions*, 7-8:30 p.m., Knox gallery, Monterey Library. Exhibit will be on view through Jul 5. See p. 10.

Jazz by the Lucky Five Quintet, 7 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse basement. See p. 12.

Monterey 2020 Community Conversations continue, 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Everyone welcome. See p. 14.

Thursday, June 12: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Visiting Nurses Assoc., 2–3 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, June 14: Bidwell Museum History Talk, "Welcoming Mary Bidwell: A Story of Love, Marriage and Politics in the 1790s Berkshire Hills," 10 a.m., Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. See p. 13.

Friday, June 20: Deadline to submit "Intent to Enter" forms for *CLICKED! In Monterey* community show in Knox Gallery. See p. 10.

Saturday, June 21:

Book reception for best-selling author B. B. Haywood, aka Monterey's own Beth Feeman, 4:30–6 p.m., Monterey General Store.

Lenox Contradance. Live music live music by Anadama: Amelia Mason fiddle, Emily Troll accordion, Bethany Waickman guitar; calling by Jim Fownes; dancing 8 to 11:30. All welcome; new dancers come at 8; all dances walked through. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St, www.lenoxcontradance.org, 413-528-4007.

Monday, June 23: Monterey book group will discuss *Drinking the Rain* by Alix Kates Shulman, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Saturday, June 28: Bidwell Museum History Talk, John Demos on "The Heathen School," 10 a.m., Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. See p. 13.

Saturday, July 5:

Bidwell House Museum Township No. 1 Day, 1–4:30 p.m., Bidwell House Museum, Art School Road. See p. 13.

"Fun with Energy" with Jeff Boyer (Remember the Bubble Man?), a program for children of all ages, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library. See p. 15.

Saturday, July 12: Outdoor Painting Workshop led by Joe Baker, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Monterey Community Center. See p. 12.

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

The Observer

April 26 – May 25

High temp. (5/12)	83º
Low temp. (4/29)	32°
Avg. high temp.	63.5°
Avg. low temp.	40.3°
Avg. temp.	51.9°
Total rainfall on 14 days	4.40 in.

This is the last weather report from Maynard Forbes, who has been reporting the weather for the News *for the last 20 years. A big tip of the hat to Maynard!*

Anyone willing to take over?

Useful Town Phone Numbers

Assessor's Office: 528-1443 x115
(for questions about your assessment or abatements)
Tax Collector's Office: 528-1443 x117
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
(for marriage licenses, death & birth certificates, census, dog licenses)
Building Department: 528-1443 x118
Police Department (non-emergency): 528-1443 x116
Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
Highway Department: 528-1734
Executive Secretary: 528-1443 x111
(for Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and other misc. questions)
Library: 528-3795
Post Office: 528-4670

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, 8, 15, 21; George Emmons, 20;
Bonner McAllester, 18

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